IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6, 12, 18, 23, 26 to 29 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ XML-based ~~element~~ elements stored in a non-transitory computer-readable memory medium, ~~for encoding a visual cue for a visual component of a multimedia presentation,~~ wherein the XML-based ~~element is~~ elements are structured for use by a computer to display ~~the~~ a multimedia presentation ~~including the visual component~~ and ~~the~~ a visual cue on a display ~~connected to~~ of the computer, wherein the XML-based ~~element comprises:~~ elements comprise at least:

a multimedia presentation element; and

a visual cue element which is nested within the multimedia presentation element;

wherein the multimedia presentation element includes access information for the multimedia presentation; and

wherein the visual cue element, which is nested within the multimedia presentation element, includes:

a visual ~~element~~ attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial ~~element~~ attribute that defines, in spatial relation to a spatial position of the multimedia presentation on the display, spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal ~~element~~ attribute that defines, in temporal relation to a temporal progression of the multimedia presentation on the display, temporal characteristics of the visual cue,

~~wherein the temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are defined relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual component, and~~

wherein the computer uses the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element to access the multimedia presentation and to synchronously display on the display the visual representation ~~superimposes a display~~ of the visual cue ~~on the display of the computer~~ superimposed over the ~~visual component in the~~ multimedia presentation, ~~using a visual appearance which is based on the visual representation of the visual cue as defined in the visual element attribute that defines visual representation of the visual cue,~~ during a period of time which is based on the temporal characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the temporal ~~element~~ attribute and on the temporal progression of the multimedia presentation, ~~that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue,~~ and at a location ~~over the associated visual element~~ which is based on the spatial characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the spatial ~~element~~ attribute ~~that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue~~ and on the spatial position of the multimedia presentation.

2. (Currently Amended) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least ~~two~~ one of begin time, end time, and duration.

3. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the visual representation includes color.

4. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

5. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) In an XML-based browser that displays a ~~synchronized~~ multimedia presentation and a visual cue on a display ~~connected to~~ of a computer to a user, a method for processing ~~an~~ XML-based ~~element for a visual cue associated with a visual component of the multimedia presentation, comprising:~~ elements, wherein the XML-based elements comprise:

a multimedia presentation element; and

a visual cue element which is nested within the multimedia presentation element;

wherein the multimedia presentation element includes access information for the multimedia presentation; and

wherein the visual cue element, which is nested within the multimedia presentation element, includes:

a visual attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial attribute that defines, in spatial relation to a spatial position of the multimedia presentation on the display, spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal attribute that defines, in temporal relation to a temporal progression of the multimedia presentation on the display, temporal characteristics of the visual cue,

~~storing information from the XML-based element concerning the visual component to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the XML-based element concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and~~

~~in synchronization with display of the visual component, displaying the visual cue with the visual representation specified, and in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,~~

~~wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual component, and~~

~~wherein the display of the visual cue is superimposed over the associated visual component in the multimedia presentation using a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue~~

wherein the method comprises:

receiving the XML-based elements including the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element; and

using the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element to access the multimedia presentation and to synchronously display on the display the visual representation of the visual cue superimposed over the multimedia presentation, during a period of time which is based on the temporal characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the temporal attribute and on the temporal progression of the multimedia presentation, and at a location which is based on the spatial characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the spatial attribute and on the spatial position of the multimedia presentation.

8. (Currently Amended) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least ~~two~~ one of begin time, end time, and duration.

9. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the visual representation includes color.

10. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

11. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing computer executable process steps to display a ~~synchronized~~ multimedia presentation and a visual cue on a display ~~connected to~~ of a computer to a user, and to process ~~an~~ XML-based ~~element for a visual cue associated with a visual component of the multimedia presentation,~~ elements, wherein the XML based elements comprise:

a multimedia presentation element; and

a visual cue element which is nested within the multimedia presentation element;

wherein the multimedia presentation element includes access information for the multimedia presentation; and

wherein the visual cue element, which is nested within the multimedia presentation element, includes:

a visual attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial attribute that defines, in spatial relation to a spatial position of the multimedia presentation on the display, spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal attribute that defines, in temporal relation to a temporal progression of the multimedia presentation on the display, temporal characteristics of the visual cue,

~~a storing step to store information from the XML-based element concerning the visual component to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the XML-based element concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and~~

~~in synchronization with display of the visual component, a displaying step to display the visual cue with the visual representation in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,~~

~~wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual component, and~~

~~wherein the display of the visual cue is superimposed over the associated visual component in the multimedia presentation using a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.~~

wherein the computer-executable process steps cause the computer to execute process steps comprising:

receiving the XML-based elements including the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element; and

using the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element to access the multimedia presentation and to synchronously display on the display the visual representation of the visual cue superimposed over the multimedia presentation, during a period of time which is based on the temporal characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the temporal attribute and on the temporal progression of the multimedia presentation, and at a location which is based on the spatial characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the spatial attribute and on the spatial position of the multimedia presentation.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least ~~two~~ one of begin time, end time, and duration.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the visual representation includes color.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

18. to 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a ~~synchronized~~ multimedia presentation and a visual cue on a display ~~connected to~~ of a computer executing an XML-based browser which processes XML-based elements, wherein the XML-based elements comprise:

a multimedia presentation element; and

a visual cue element which is nested within the multimedia presentation element;

wherein the multimedia presentation element includes access information for the multimedia presentation; and

wherein the visual cue element, which is nested within the multimedia presentation element, includes:

a visual attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial attribute that defines, in spatial relation to a spatial position of the multimedia presentation on the display, spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal attribute that defines, in temporal relation to a temporal progression of the multimedia presentation on the display, temporal characteristics of the visual cue,

wherein the method comprises:

receiving the XML-based elements including the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element; and

using the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element to access the multimedia presentation and to synchronously display on the display the visual representation of the visual cue superimposed over the multimedia presentation, during a period of time which is based on the temporal characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the temporal attribute and on the temporal progression of the multimedia presentation, and at a location which is based on the spatial characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the spatial attribute and on the spatial position of the multimedia presentation. ~~, comprising:~~

~~receiving XML-based data including an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the multimedia component; and~~

~~displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the multimedia component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element.~~

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least ~~two~~ one of begin time, end time, and duration.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

26. to 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a display;

a computer-readable storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps that cause a ~~synchronized~~ multimedia presentation and a visual cue to be displayed on the display, and for storing XML-based ~~data for synchronizing the display of the multimedia presentation~~ elements; and

a processor to execute the process steps stored in the storage medium;

wherein the XML-based elements comprise:

a multimedia presentation element; and

a visual cue element which is nested within the multimedia presentation element;

wherein the multimedia presentation element includes access information for the multimedia presentation; and

wherein the visual cue element, which is nested within the multimedia presentation element, includes:

a visual attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial attribute that defines, in spatial relation to a spatial position of the multimedia presentation on the display, spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal attribute that defines, in temporal relation to a temporal progression of the multimedia presentation on the display, temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and

wherein the process steps comprise:

~~receiving the XML-based data, wherein the XML-based data includes an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component; and~~

~~displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the visual component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element~~

receiving the XML-based elements including the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element; and

using the multimedia presentation element and the nested visual cue element to access the multimedia presentation and to synchronously display on the display the visual representation of the visual cue superimposed over the multimedia presentation, during a period of time which is based on the temporal characteristics of the visual cue as

defined in the temporal attribute and on the temporal progression of the multimedia presentation, and at a location which is based on the spatial characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the spatial attribute and on the spatial position of the multimedia presentation.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least ~~two~~ one of begin time, end time, and duration.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

34. to 45. (Cancelled)